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Speaker Outlines Gains Made By Labor Unions

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A recession in 1961 was predicted by Mitchell Sviridoff, president of the State Labor Council (AFL-CIO) in a talk here yesterday, in which he charged the Government with creating a recession every two years.

Sviridoff was speaker at an assembly arranged by the Committee on Political Education of the Greater Waterbury Labor Council at Knights of Columbus Home. About 300 people attended.

Sviridoff stressed gains made by labor unions through active participation in politics, and said unions can not survive without taking an active role in politics.

Other speakers were John J. Driscoll, UAW subregional director, who discussed international issues; William Carroll, president of the local council; and Salvatore Jacaruso, chairman of COPE for the council.

Sviridoff asserted that all union gains in the last 25 years have been the result of economic efforts coupled with political effort.

"Your union contract is rooted in the law, it's rooted in politics," said the state council president. "The fact that there is such a thing as a union contract grew out of legislation."

He pointed out that in 17 states there is no union security because legislation has enabled right-to-work laws there.

Warns Of Recession

He pointed out also that the finest contract provisions obtainable are of no use if there are no jobs due to periodic recession.

These recessions, coming approximately every two years, are the result of administrations with "a conscious policy of turning back the economy whenever it appears on the edge of a boom," said Sviridoff.

He said the "National Government is so frightened of growth, so afraid of an unbalanced budget, inflation and an increase in the national deficit that it uses all kinds of restrictive policies, including a tight money and high interest policy, preventing the expansion of

small business. In this way the Government takes the bloom off the boom and starts working back toward another recession."

This year the steel strike saved the country from a recession, said Sviridoff, "but by 1961 we will see a recession that will make the last one look mild. Each one is longer and deeper than the preceding one."

In urging his listeners to participate in politics, Sviridoff reminded them that there is feeling against unions in politics and that this feeling must be overcome.

"The feeling is that there's something corrupting about unions being involved in politics," he said. "It's all right, even noble for businessmen, farmers, leaders of the Chamber of Commerce, or the American Medical Association to be so involved, but for unions it's indecent, improper. This feeling is what we've got to counteract while we increase our level of participation and understanding of political issues."

Reviews Issues

Driscoll reviewed crucial issues which will face the President and Congress elected in November. These issues, he said, "come from the challenge of Soviet Russia and the world Communist camp. We cannot escape them by boastful claims about America's might. We must meet them in the field of military capability, whether in missiles for a real deterrent to war, or in forces and weapons to fight local aggressions."

"We must meet them in the field of education, in health services, in space exploration. But most of all we must meet the Soviet challenge in the field of industrial production and technology."

Driscoll quoted Allan Dulles, chief of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency, that our national rate of industrial growth has only been one-third that of the USSR since 1950.

"We will need a President who will not be taken in by any hope that so-called peaceful coexistence with the Soviets means any change in their goal of world domination," continued Driscoll.

He said the Soviets have made it clear that their new policy is the one Lenin outlined in the 1920s for carrying on the fight against capitalism and democracy by means other than war.

"It is because of such clear predictions by the Soviet totalitarians about what they mean to do to our system that we cannot afford to be second-best, either in education or in steel production."